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relations seem dull, dry, unimpressive things beside the insights of poets and proverb-makers—but only to those who miss their meaning. In the end they will contribute tenfold more to man's mastery of himself. History records no career, war or revolution that can compare in significance with the fact that the correlation between intellect and morality is approximately .3, a fact to which perhaps a fourth of the world's progress is due. Experiments measuring the effects of school subjects and methods seem pedantic and inhuman beside the spontaneous tact and insight of the gifted teacher. But his personal work is confined by time and space to reach only a few; their results join the free common fund of science which increases the more, the more it is used, and lives forever.

E. L. THORNDIKE

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W. G. WRIGHT

WILLIAM GREENWOOD WRIGHT died on Sunday afternoon, December 1, 1912, in the eighty-third year of his age. He had been in apparently good health and spirits for some time past. He was found dead sitting in his chair, a newspaper fallen from his relaxed grasp. The cause was heart failure.

He was born near Newark, New Jersey; his early education was limited. He was a soldier in the Union army during the civil war, and soon after the close of that conflict he must have come to California, where he resided a few years in Los Angeles, where his only child was born and died in infancy. He went to San Bernardino about 1873, where he resided until his death and where he conducted a planing mill. About fifteen years ago he retired from active business, and spent his time in collecting and gathering material for his work on butterflies. His wife died a number of years ago, and he leaves no near relatives.

His collection of butterflies and library he has left to the California Academy of Sci-

ences, San Francisco. Some other collections are to be sold. Mr. S. B. Parish, the noted botanist, and the executor of Wright's estate, has given me the few data now obtainable.

W. G. Wright traveled all over the west coast from Alaska to Mazatlan, Mexico, collecting specimens in various departments of natural history, but especially the Lepidoptera. He published an interesting account of his travels in Mexico in *Zoe*. An article in the *Overland Monthly* for 1884 is entitled "A Naturalist in the Desert," and an article on "Collecting in Alaska," which can not now be located. Other papers are found in *Entomologica Americana*, *Canadian Entomologist*, *Papilio*, *Entomological News* and Edwards's "Butterflies of North America." Perhaps the most important service he rendered to science was the help he gave to W. H. Edwards in the great work just mentioned. In the *Ornithologist and Oologist*, for February, 1885, we find an article on "An Experiment in Bird Taming," with *Phainopepla nitens*; his name is frequent in the two large volumes, "Botany of California," as he was an enthusiastic collector of plants. His most important book, "The Butterflies of the West Coast," was published in San Francisco in October, 1905, and was really an epoch-making publication, notwithstanding the numerous inevitable mistakes. This work was illustrated entirely by color-photography.

Among the insects which have been named in his honor by different men, are: *Melitæa wrightii*, *Copæodes wrightii*, *Gluphisia wrightii*, *Leptarctia wrightii* and *Selidosema wrightiarium*. He named a number of new species, but a good many of these, especially those in his 1905 book, are synonyms.

Mr. Wright was a close friend of the two noted pioneer botanists and collectors, Edward Palmer and C. C. Parry, and made many excursions, of varying lengths, with them. He knew many other botanists and entomologists also.

W. G. Wright will always be remembered by those who were so fortunate as to have known him personally. He was a *naturalist*

in the true sense; such naturalists becoming fewer as the years pass.

The captains and the kings depart.

FORDYCE GRINNELL, JR.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR HENRY ROSCOE celebrated his eightieth birthday on January 7 at Woodcote Lodge, West Horsley. His former pupils and friends have resolved to commemorate the occasion by presenting his bust to the Chemical Society of London. A deputation headed by Sir Edward Thorpe went to Woodcote and presented an address of congratulation.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of Professor Charles Richet's appointment to the chair of physiology at the Faculté de médecine de Paris was celebrated on December 22. He was presented with a *Festschrift* containing some eighty contributions from distinguished physiologists, and addresses of congratulation were made.

CAPTAIN ROALD AMUNDSEN received the gold medal of the American Geographical Society on January 14, when he addressed in Carnegie Hall an audience of 3,000 persons. He will receive the gold medal of the Geographical Society of Chicago on February 3. He will be the first to receive this medal, as he was the first to receive the Culver Gold medal in 1907.

PROFESSOR GEORGE C. COMSTOCK, director of Washburn Observatory, University of Wisconsin, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

DR. GEORG CANTOR, professor of mathematics at Halle, has been made an honorary doctor of the University of St. Andrews.

MAJOR SIR RONALD ROSS, F.R.S., has been appointed physician for tropical diseases to King's College Hospital, and will take up his duties in the autumn, after the removal of the hospital to Denmark Hill. Sir Ronald Ross is now professor of tropical sanitation in the University of Liverpool.

PROFESSOR FRANZ BOAS, of Columbia University, has been appointed lecturer in anthro-

pology at Harvard University for the second half year.

AT the recent meeting of the American Phytopathological Society at Cleveland the following officers were elected for 1913:

*President*—F. C. Stewart, New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

*Vice-president*—Haven Metcalf, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

*Secretary-treasurer*—C. L. Shear, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

*Councillor*—W. J. Morse, Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Me.

The society decided to hold its next annual meeting at Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

PROFESSOR A. S. HITCHCOCK, systematic agrostologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has returned from the West Indies. He visited Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago and, incidentally, Cartigena and Puerto de Colombia. In Jamaica 643 numbers of grasses were obtained, representing about 168 species, and including all except four of the species known from this island, and many species not hitherto recorded. From Trinidad 337 numbers were collected, representing 140 species, and from Tobago 90 numbers representing 65 species. Mr. Hitchcock was successful in recollecting nearly all the species whose type localities are in these islands.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM J. G. LAND, of the department of botany of the University of Chicago, has returned with a large collection of botanical specimens from Australia and the islands of the Pacific.

MR. A. C. VEATCH, formerly chairman of the Land Classification Board of the United States Geological Survey, has arrived at the Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C., from London. He expects to spend a short time in the United States looking for men to assist him in his geological investigations, which have extended to many parts of the world.

PROFESSOR J. E. DUERDEN, Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, South Africa, has been invited by the government of British